

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS STATE 077660

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: LECTURER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

REF: STATE 073668

1. WE APPRECIATE SOVIET CONCERN OVER UNEQUAL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS LECTURER PROGRAM. ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT OF US UNIVERSITIES, HOWEVER, IS NATURAL AND INEVITABLE RESULT OF LACK OF POOL OF US STUDENTS WITH SUFFICIENT COMPREHENSION OTHER LANGUAGES, ESPECIALLY RUSSIAN.
2. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ATTEMPT TO FORCE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS ON PARTICIPATING UNIVERSITIES WOULD ONLY FURTHER DAMAGE SOVIET PROGRAM WHICH IS ALREADY SOURCE CONSIDERABLE FRUSTRATION FOR PARTICIPATING US INSTITUTIONS DUE TO BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS (SEE REFTTEL).
3. US INSTITUTIONS GENERALLY PREPARED TO ADMIT RUSSIAN SPEAKERS IN COURSES WHICH INVOLVE ADVANCED-LEVEL STUDENTS OF RUSSIAN IN US (LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, LINGUISTICS, HISTORY), BUT FEEL DILUTION OF REQUIREMENT IN OTHER AREAS WOULD MAKE COURSES CUMBERSOME AND LEAD TO STUDENT DISINTEREST.

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4. CIES NOW POLLING SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES AS TO ACCEPTA-

BILITY MODIFICATION ENGLISH FLUENCY REQUIREMENT. WILL
CABLE FINDINGS IN SEPTEL. KISSINGER

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